

Thursday, December 1, 1966

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**IN NEW QUARTERS**

The Duxbury Rural & Historical Society, which for half a century has been housed on Washington St. across from the Cable House, is now in its new quarters in King Caesar House on King Caesar Rd. The original building was a gift from Mrs. Alice Ripley.

A year ago the society bought the 157-year-old King Caesar House by public subscription. Residents donated a total of \$140,000. Of this total, \$70,000 was used to buy the house; \$50,000 for an endowment and \$8,000 for renovations.

The curator is the Rev. William Lord McKinney, former minister of The First Parish Unitarian Church in Bridgewater and vice-president of the Bridgewater Historical Society. Mrs. McKinney, was secretary of that society, and is clerk of the DR&HS. They will live in an apartment on the second floor of the King Caesar House.

Mr. McKinney, who has written a pamphlet on the famed house, will soon publish a larger edition. He has also written many articles on historical subjects.

The society has been restoring and refurbishing the new headquarters under the supervision of William Nash, past president of the society, chairman; Mrs. Daniel Brown, Mrs. George Fogg, Mrs. Donald Walker, Mrs. Harold Fitzgibbons, Harold Bush-Brown and Dr. H. C. Bumpus. Allan Waite is chairman of physical properties and Allen Hopper was the chairman of the committee in charge of moving.

**LONG HISTORY**

The King Caesar House, built in the late 1700's by famous shipbuilder Ezra Weston, was owned by the late artist, Madame Elisabeth Weber-Fulop. The house still has its Zuber wallpaper, specimens of which are also found in the White House. According to Mr. Nash, the west parlor, the east front room on the first floor, and the west bedroom on the second floor will be restored and furnished in the period of 1809-20. The west parlor is practically in its original condition, including the early 1800 Zuber French wallpaper decorating its walls. It depicts scenes from Versailles. Three panels of paper, transferred from the east front room to the stairway and upper hall, will be moved back to the east room. Remnants of French paper made in 1832, show Pizarro conquering Peru. The Boston Museum of Fine Arts is restoring the wallpaper.

Two redecorated rooms on the ground floor will be used for exhibitions.

The Ezra Westons once owned and controlled over 50 ships, but their world-wide industry declined with the coming of the clippers. Duxbury Harbor was too shallow to accommodate the new vessels. Last Weston to live in the house was Alden, who sold the house to the Knapp family in 1886. Mr. Knapp was headmaster of Powder Point school, where Alger Hiss prepared for Johns Hopkins (his sister lived in the house on Water St. now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Stewart Clifford).

This school is now Sailor's Snug Harbor. The Knapps sold the house to Dr. Bumpus in 1937, and he sold it to Mme. Weber-Fulop in 1945.

No decision has been made as to the disposition of the old historical museum on Blue Fish River. Mr. Nash hopes it will be sold and preserved.